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A SKETCH  
OF THE  
MALE DESCENDANTS  
OF  
JOSCELINE DE LOUVAINE,  
THE SECOND HOUSE OF PERCY,  
EARLS OF NORTHUMBERLAND,  
BARONS PERCY,  
&c.,  
AND TERRITORIAL  
LORDS OF ALNWICK, WARKWORTH,  
AND  
PRUDHOE CASTLES,  
IN  
*The County of Northumberland.*  
BY  
W. E. SURTEES, ESQ., D.C.L.

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“The two great princes of the North were the Earls of Northumberland at Alnwick, and Westmerland at Raby Castle.”

CHOROGRAPHIA OR SURVEY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

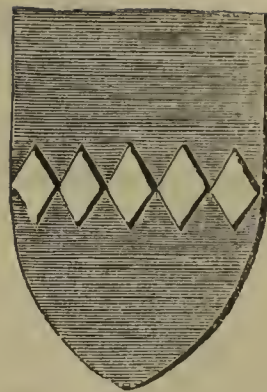
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*Esperance en Dieu.*

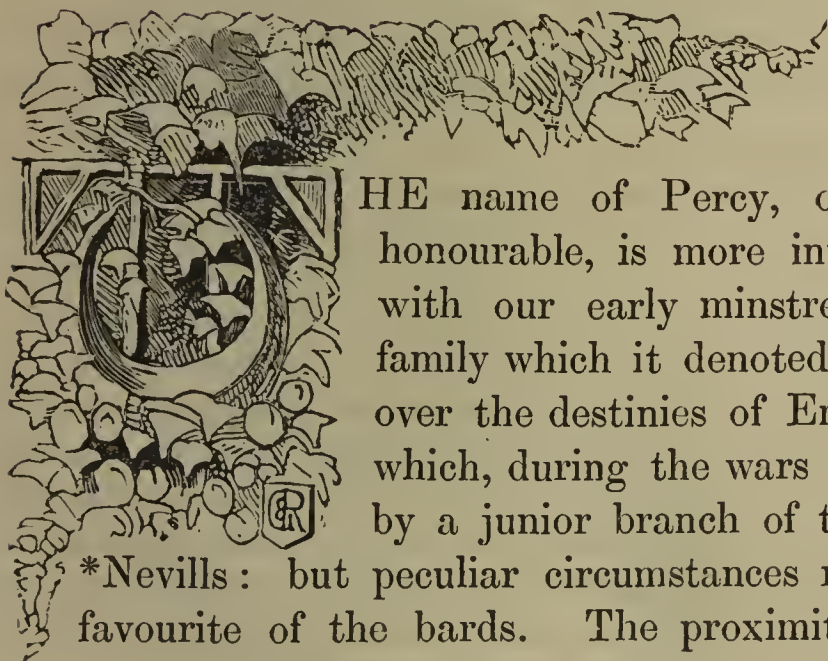


A SKETCH OF THE  
MALE DESCENDANTS OF JOSCELINE DE LOUVAINE,

(THE SECOND HOUSE OF PERCY),

EARLS OF NORTHUMBERLAND, BARONS PERCY,

&c., &c.



THE name of Percy, often tragic, but always honourable, is more interwoven than any other with our early minstrelsy and romance. The family which it denoted never perhaps exercised over the destinies of England the mighty power which, during the wars of the roses, was wielded by a junior branch of their northern rivals, the \*Nevills: but peculiar circumstances rendered it far more the favourite of the bards. The proximity of the Percies to the border involved them in a continual hostility; which, being

\* See Local Historian's Table Book, Traditional Div., vol. 2, p.p. 63-65; and also Bulwer's novel of "The Last of the Barons," where the characters of the heads of this branch are drawn with fidelity, as well as eloquence.



often carried on with petty forces, and consisting of making, or repelling, a foray, was rather in the nature of a private feud than a national war: and hence their heroes were the more capable of being individualized with dramatic effect. This family was also fortunate in the vicinity, on the opposite border, of a house so powerful as to rival its own sovereign princes. The Douglas it was glorious to overcome—by the Douglas it was not disgraceful to be vanquished. Thus the Percies became the theme of the minstrels of two nations; and national prejudice would lead those of each to extol the prowess of this family, whether they

“woke the string  
The triumph of the foe to tell”

or that of their own countrymen,—to cover their country’s shame, or to enhance its glory.

In taking a survey of the house of Percy, we shall hastily pass over the pristine patriarchs of the race, as Manfred the Dane, and

“Brave Galfred,” who “to Normandy  
With vent’rous Rollo came;  
And, from his Norman castles won,  
Assumed the Percy name,”\*

and descend in their pedigree to Agnes de Perci, the heiress of this lofty line which had been enriched, by the conquest of England and the favour of its Kings, with vast possessions in †Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. She became the bride of Josceline de Louvaine, brother of Adeliza, second Queen to the first Henry of England, and younger son of Godfrey Count of Lovaine and Bruxells, and reigning Duke of Brabant.‡ Yet the proud condition was imposed on the Flemish Prince, on his accepting the Norman alliance, that he should relinquish either his own name or coat of arms in favour of that of his bride. He decided the option by assuming the name of Percy; and the

\* The Hermit of Warkworth.

† Of the Yorkshire possessions of this family, Topcliff in the North riding, and Spofford in the West riding, became their chief residences.—Dugdale’s Baronage, vol. 1. p. 279. In the deanery of Craven, in the West riding of Yorkshire, the Percies held, from the era of the conquest, an extensive domain, called the Percy fee; where however they had no residence. In the time of Henry VIII., it passed from them to the Cliffords, in consequence of a marriage.—See Whitaker’s Craven.

‡ “They sung how Agnes, beauteous heir,  
The Queen’s own brother wed—

Lord Josceline, sprung from Charlemagne,

In princely Brabant bred.” *Hermit of Warkworth.*

There is a printed pedigree tracing the descent of Agnes de Perci up to Manfred; and that of Josceline de Louvaine up, through Gerberga, daughter and heiress of Charles Duke of Lorrain, to Charlemagne, and, in the male line, to the ancient Dukes of Hainault.

ancient royal arms of Brabant are at this day borne the first of the eight hundred and ninety-two quarterings of the Percy shield.\*

The wealth which Josceline thus acquired by marriage received an accession by the grant of the honour of Petworth, in Sussex, which was bestowed on him by the Queen his sister. This was a part of the Earldom of Arundel; the estates of which had reverted to the crown in consequence of the rebellion of a former Earl, and were settled on the Queen in dower. She, after the death of the King her husband, married William de Albini, who thus obtained the Earldom matrimonial of Arundel: and of him Josceline held Petworth by the Knight's service of being his castellan, and, during siege, defending his castle of Arundel for forty days.†

The grandson and eventual heir of this marriage, William de Perci, third territorial Lord of Petworth (whose mother was Isabel de Bruce of Skelton, daughter of the elder branch of that family which afterwards gave kings to Scotland), had two wives. His second wife was Ellen de Baliol who brought to her husband, Dalton, in the bishoprick of Durham, since called Dalton-Percy: ‡ and this was not improbably the first English possession acquired by the house of Percy north of the Tees.§

The male issue was by this second marriage: and the son and heir, Henry de Perci, wedded Eleanor daughter of John Plantagenet Earl of Warren and Surrey, descended from a base-born son of Godfrey Plantagenet Count of Anjou, the second husband of Maud of England, Empress of Germany.

On the early death of two elder sons, his youngest son Henry de Percy succeeded to the family inheritance of wealth and honours. From youth to age he was a warrior. He was one of the victors in the

\* "Not more famous in arms than distinguished for its alliances, the house of Percy stands pre-eminent for the number and rank of the families which are represented by the present Duke of Northumberland, whose banner consequently exhibits an assemblage of nearly nine hundred armorial ensigns—Among which are those of King Henry the Seventh, of several younger branches of the blood-Royal, of the Sovereign houses of France, Castile, Leon, and Scotland, and of the ducal houses of Normandy and Brittany, forming a galaxy of heraldic honours altogether unparalleled." Quarterly Review, No. cxliii. May, 1843. p. 170.

† Dallaway's Sussex, vol. ii. p. 268. Miss Strickland's Lives of the Queens of England.

‡ "In 1370 Henry Lord Percy sold this manor to Sir John Nevill of Raby," Lord Nevill.—Surtess' Dur. vol. iii. p. 98.

§ "Ere Percy,—liv'd there many an English knight—  
Before brave Douglas,—many a Scottish wight,  
Who undistinguish'd lie without a name,  
Now having lost the heralds of their fame."

"Cheviot, a poetical fragment," belonging to the beginning of the last century, edited by John Adamson, Esq. of Newcastle, 1817.



battle of Dunbar; and was highly distinguished throughout the Scottish wars\* during the reign of King Edward the First: and he is alleged to have been rewarded by the victorious English monarch with the Scotch Earldom of Carrick, which Robert the Bruce (afterwards King of Scotland) was declared to have forfeited by slaying the Red Comyn in the Church at Dumfries.† In 1299, seven years previously to this, he had received a writ of summons to the house of Lords, by which the barony in fee of Percy was created. It was he who acquired Alnwick‡ in the county of Northumberland, which has,



ALNWICK CASTLE FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

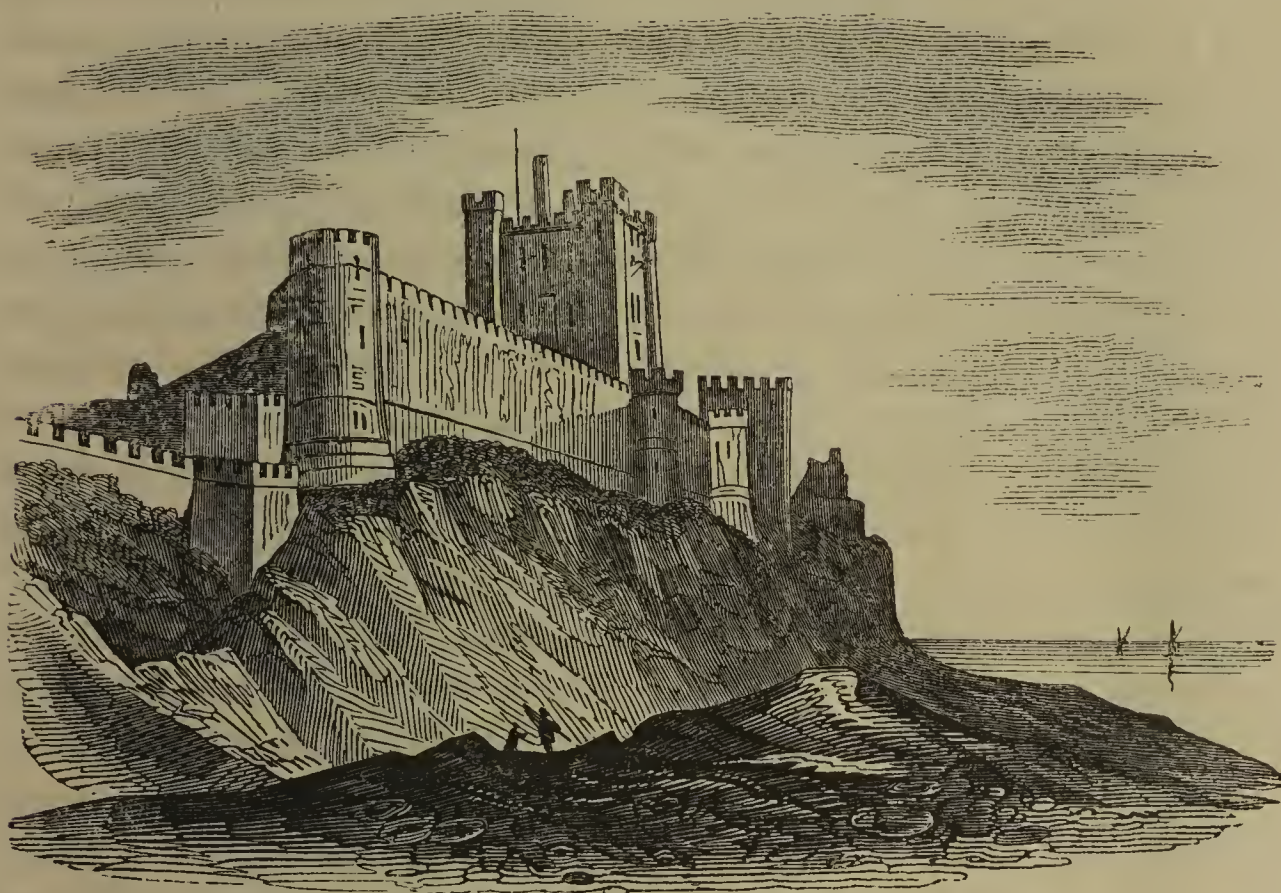
\* He was, in the 25 Ed. I., sent into Scotland in command of some forces by his Uncle the Earl of Warren, who was general of all the armies north of the Trent.—Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 272.

† Ibid. vol. i. p. 273.

‡ Alnwick, at the time of the conquest, belonged to William Tyson, a Saxon baron, who was slain in the battle of Hastings. His daughter and his possessions were conferred by the conquerer on his follower Ivo de Vesco; whose daughter and heiress carried it to her husband Eustace Fitz-John. Descended from them was William de Vescey, the last of a line of feudal barons; who, on the death of his only legitimate son in the Welch wars, granted to King Edward I., some lands in Ireland, that his natural son William de Kildare might be allowed to succeed him in this Northumberland property: and, before his death, appointed Anthony Beck, the most princely of the bishops of Durham, trustee for his son, then a minor. The bishop offended, as has been alleged, at the



to the present day, been transmitted to his descendants. He also obtained the Lordship of Corbridge\* in Northumberland, by purchase: and in the 5 Edward II., received the governorship of the then royal castle of Bamborough. He died in 1315, leaving by his wife the Lady Eleanor Fitz-Alan, a son, Henry, second Baron Percy of Alnwick.



BAMBOROUGH CASTLE.

language which this son had been reported to have used respecting him, appropriated the property to his own use, and eventually sold it to Henry Lord Percy, by a deed dated 1309, signed by some of the principal persons of the time, and confirmed by King Edward II., the next year: and Lord Percy, in order to perfect his title, took the precaution, to obtain a re-lease from Sir Gilbert de Aiton, a collateral relative but right heir to William de Visci. Anthony Beck appears to have appropriated this barony to himself for many years before he sold it; so that Lord Percy must have profited by, rather than promoted, the alleged fraud, which has affixed so deep a stain on the otherwise lofty character of the prelate.—*Beauties of England and Wales, Vol. XII. part 1, by the Rev. J. Hodgson. Gough's Camden's Britannia, Dugdale's Baronage.* It has been asserted that the deed of feofment from de Vescy to the bishop still exists: and it has been argued that, because in this no express trusts appear, there could have been no implied ones.—*Description of Alnwick Castle, published by W. Davison, at Alnwick, Ed. of 1823.*

Here the descendants of Lord Percy for centuries kept a court in princely state; so that the poet, though a laureate, scarcely exaggerates when, in allusion to the State in which the fourth Earl of Northumberland had lived, he speaks of the

“ barons and those knyghtes bold,  
And other gentilmen with hym entertheynd  
In fee, as menyall men of his housold,  
Whom he as lord worsheply manteynd.”

*Skelton's Elegy on the Death of the 4th Earl of Northumberland.*

\* Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 273.



This baron appears to have been one of the most fortunate as well as one of the most gallant and able of his race. During his minority he received an accession to his family property, in a grant of the Northumbrian fees belonging to Patrick de Dunbar, the Scotch Earl of Dunbar and March, who had rebelled against Edward II. He afterwards, in 1326, with Queen Isabella, Prince Edward, and some of the barons, participated in the successful attempt to suppress by force the influence of the Spencers: and, on the young Prince succeeding to the crown as Edward III., the Percy received from him the custody of the castle of Skipton, in Yorkshire, and a grant of the castle and barony of Warkworth, in Northumberland. As he was a favourite of King Edward III., who supported the claims of Edward Baliol to the throne of Scotland, he received from the latter large grants, in that country, of the forfeited estates of the partizans of David Bruce, the rival claimant to that crown. In 1346 he was one of the chiefs in command of those forces that gave battle to the Scots at Nevill's cross, and took their King David Bruce prisoner.\* The Douglas was in the army of the vanquished; and thus early may the rivalry in arms of these two great border names be presumed to have commenced. His wife was Idonia de Clifford, daughter of Robert Lord Clifford, whose race had such high ancestral title to beauty:† and by her he had a numerous offspring; of which Thomas de Percy was made Bishop of Norwich at the early age of twenty-two; Matilda de Percy married John Lord Nevill of Raby, and was mother of the first Earl of Westmoreland; and Henry de Percy his eldest son, succeeded his father as third Lord Percy of Alnwick, 1351-2.

This nobleman had, in 1346 (during his father's life), accompanied Edward III. in the expedition to France, which on 26th August was crowned by the victory of Cressy; and afterwards held high employments. He married the Lady Mary Plantagenet,‡ daughter of Henry Earl of Lancaster, grandson of King Henry III., when his bride was aged fourteen years only. And dying in 1368, at the age of forty-six, left by her two sons, Henry, created Earl of Northumberland, and father of Hotspur, and Thomas, created Earl of Wor-

\* See Local Historian's Table Book, Historical Div., vol. 1. p. 120.

† From his family, at an earlier period, sprung the Fair Rosamond (" *Rosa mundi, non Rosamunda* ") of King Henry II., whose skin, according to tradition, was so delicate that Queen Eleanor saw, through her "crystal" throat, the poisoned wine trickling, which she had administered.

‡ She was sister of Henry Plantagenet Duke of Lancaster, whose daughter and heiress was first wife to her third Cousin John of Gaunt, who in consequence of this alliance was, by his father Edward III., created Duke of Lancaster.



cester: names which the drama has vied with history in rendering illustrious.

The near alliance of the two brothers by blood to the reigning family, and the stirring times in which they lived, ensured them the opportunity of distinction, while their own ability and enterprise urged them to profit by it. Both served with honour in the French wars of Edward III.: both long enjoyed the favour of his weak successor Richard II., and by him were elevated to their earldoms: both deserted his falling fortunes, and combined to place the able and domineering Henry of Bolingbroke on his throne: and both, unable to endure the severe sway with which he wielded the rod of empire they had placed in his hand,\* endeavoured by open war to depose him, and perished in the bold attempt. The details of the lives of these eminent men would be the history of a great part of the three reigns in which they flourished, and it can here be only attempted to notice slightly a few of the more prominent events in which they bore a part.

In the tenth year of the reign of Richard II., Worcester, then only Sir Thomas Percy, was appointed Admiral of the English fleet sent to Spain to attempt, in behalf of John of Gaunt, the seizure of the Kingdoms of Castile and Leon, to which he had laid claim in right of his marriage to his second wife Constance of Castile. Five years later he was sent to Paris to conclude a final peace with Charles VI. and there, as Froisart relates, the French Monarch “made a Dinner to the Englysh Knightes, and caused Syr Thomas Percy to sytte at his borde, and called hym cosyn, by reason of Northumberlande’s bloud.”† In the mean time Northumberland, then Lord Percy, had, together with John of Gaunt, been conspicuous as a protector of John‡ Wickliffe, the early religious reformer; and had held the high office of Marshall of England at the coronation of Richard. It was then that he was raised to his Earldom—an accession of

\* Thus, previously to the open rupture, Worcester is represented as haughtily reminding King Henry of the services of his family.

“Our house, my Sovereign liege, little deserves  
The scourge of greatness to be used on it;  
And the same greatness too which our own hands  
Have holp to make so portly.”

Henry IV. part 1. scene 3.

† The wife of Henry III. from whose second son *Crouchback* the mother of Northumberland and Worcester was descended, was a French Princess; and through her was, probably, their most recent alliance to the reigning house of France. We may here observe that the style of address used in these days, by the courtesy of Kings to their higher nobility, seems to have been handed down from a period when the connection acknowledged by it was generally a matter of fact.

‡ Hume’s History of England, ch. XVII.

honour which we shall find to have been the forerunner of a long series of brilliant calamities to himself and his descendants. While Worcester remained single, Northumberland was twice married; and by his first wife, Margaret Nevill, aunt of the first Earl of Westmoreland, was father of an eldest \*son Henry, called from his noble bearing and restless energy of character, “Prince Hotspur† of the North,”—a name which must ever shine forth the brightest of English chivalry,‡ if the united efforts of ballad-writer, the dramatist, and the historian, can preserve any name from oblivion. His second wife, sister and heiress of Anthony Lord Lucy, bore him no children: yet conveyed to him all her broad lands, on the easy condition that he and his heirs male should incorporate the arms of Lucy into the Percy shield. In the twelfth year of King Richard, Hotspur avenged the capture of his banner before Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the life’s blood of the Douglas at Otterburn:§ though there is no historical authority for the statement of the ballad that

\* Hotspur was born 20th May, 1364, (Dallaway’s *Sussex*, Vol. 2. p. 272.) more than twenty years before Prince Henry of Wales, who was born in 1387; so that Shakspeare has taken the license of a poet in representing them of the same standing, and making King Henry exclaim:—

“ Oh, that it could be proved  
That some night tripping fairy had exchanged  
In cradle-clothes our children, where they lay;  
And call’d mine—Percy, his—Plantagenet!”

Hen: IV. Part 1. Act 1. Scene 1.

According to Mr. Tyler’s view, in his life of Henry of Monmouth, Shakspeare has taken another liberty with historic truth in misrepresenting the early character of the Prince of Wales.

† “Sir Henry Percy received his *Soubriquet* of Hotspur from the Scots, with whom he was engaged in perpetual forays and battles.—He was first armed when the Castle of Berwick was taken by the Scots, in 1378, when he was (fourteen) years old; and from that time till the battle of Holmedon, *his spur was never cold.*” Historical illustrations to the first part of Henry IV. in the Pictorial Shakspeare. Another explanation of this, literally, *nom de guerre*, varying somewhat from the former, is that he “was called by the French and Scots Harre Hatesporre, because, in the silence of the night, and while others reposed in sleep, he would labour indefatigably against his enemy, as if *heating* his spurs, which we call Hatesporre,” Knighton p. 2696. But, perhaps, the daring and impetuous character, which this surname implies, may be better understood by calling in aid, as an illustration, a couplet from our modern chivalrous poet, Walter Scott:—

“ Let Stanley charge with *spur of fire*,  
With Chester charge, and Lancashire.”—

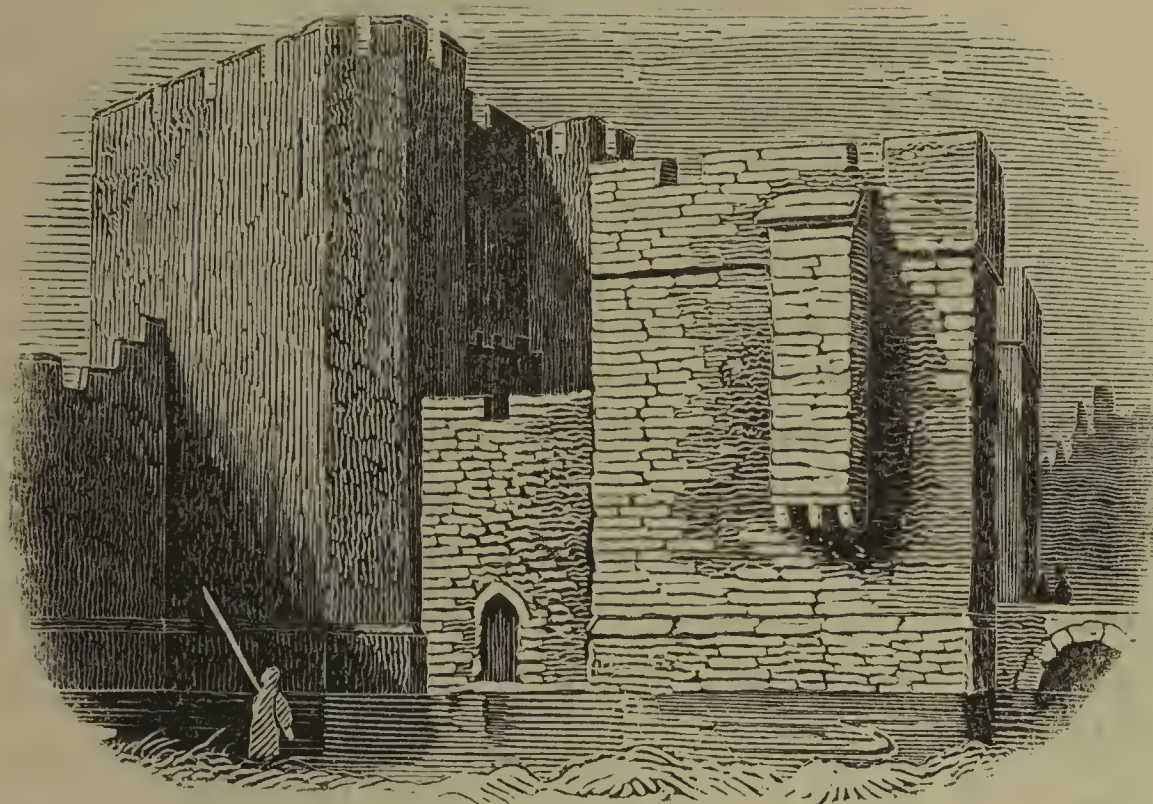
The Battle (Canto VI.) in *Marmion*.

‡ “Among a grove, the very straightest plant.”

Part 2. Henry IV. Act 1. Scene 1.

§ See the account of the battle in the Local Historian’s Table Book, Historical Div., vol. 1. p. 137. The field of this conflict, lying between the burn Otter and the river Reed, is marked by a pillar called “Battle Stone,” and sometimes, though improperly, “Percy’s Cross.” The Douglas who fell here was James second Earl of Douglas.





NEWGATE, NEWCASTLE, AT THE PERIOD.

the antagonist leaders having on this occasion \* personally encountered each other, the English chief with his own hand slew his opponent;† and for thus bedecking the Knighthood of the middle ages with the *spolia opima* of classic antiquity. The battle does not appear to have terminated in favour of the English; for Hotspur and his brother Ralph Percy were left prisoners with the enemy. The tragic incidents of this encounter, with the aggravation of the death instead of the capture of the Percy, seem to have been transferred by the ballad-writers to the perhaps imaginary battle field

\* The bare fact of a personal encounter having taken place between the Percy and the Douglas was probably engrafted by the ballad writer into the battle of Otterburn from the skirmish before Newcastle: for "there," says Froisart, "fought hand to hand the Douglas and Sir Henry Percy; and by force of arms, the Earl won Sir Henry's penon."

‡ The Percy was a man of strength,  
I tell yow in thys stounde;  
He smote the Dowglas at the swordes length,  
That he felle to the growynde.

The sworde was scharpe and sore can byte,  
I tell yow in sertayne;  
To the harte he cowde hym smyte:—  
Thus was the Dowglas slayne."

Ancient ballad of the Battle of Otterbourne.

Percy's Reliques.

There is a modern ballad on the same subject in the Local Historian's Table Book, Legendary Div., vol. 1. p. 266.

of Chevy Chase; or rather both battles are there treated as one.

“This was the hontynge off the Cheviat;  
 That tear begane this spurn:  
 Old men that knowen the grownde well yenoughe,  
 Call it the battell of Otterburn.  
 At Otterburn began this spurne  
 Uppon a monnynday;  
 Ther was the dougghté Doglas sleane,  
 The Persè never went away.”\*

On the landing in Yorkshire of Henry of Bolingbroke—

“Sick in the world’s regard, wretched and low,  
 A poor unminded outlaw sneaking home”—†

the great family triumvirate of the Percies supported him with all their power, whether or not they then believed (as they afterwards alleged);—

“That he did nothing purpose ’gainst the state;  
 Nor claim no further than his new fall’n right—  
 The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster.”‡

Be this as it may, the debt of gratitude for a crown was too heavy for the sovereign in full to pay, and too clear for the subject in aught to abate. Under such circumstances the favours the Percies received, they would regard as instalments of their dues, while those that were denied would seem the infliction of injuries. To these obvious ingredients of dissatisfaction others were shortly added. Owen Glendower, claiming§ to be descended from the ancient princes of Wales, had then lately prevailed upon the Welch again to renounce their allegiance to England, and had carried off, to the fastnesses of his own country, Sir Edward Mortimer,|| the brother-in-law of Hotspur, as a prisoner of war. On Hotspur’s application to King Henry for permission to ransom his connection from captivity, he is said to have been answered that “Mortimer had gone of his own choice to Glendower; and, therefore, *no loyal subject* could wish him back.”¶

\* The more ancient version of Chevy Chase.

† Part 1. Henry IV. Act 4 scene 3. ‡ Ibid Act 5. scene 1.

§ Such as take an interest in the claim of “the irregular and wild Glendower” to a royal descent are referred to an elaborate pedigree of him under the heading of Hughes of Gwerclas, in the 2nd ed. of Burke’s *Commoners*.

|| His sister, the wife of Hotspur and the “gentle Kate” of Shakspeare, was in fact called Elizabeth. See a note appended to the will of her father Edmond de Mortimer Earl of March, in Sir Harris Nicolas’ *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 112. In this will, which is dated 1 May 1380, he bequeathes to “our dear Son Monsr. Henry Percy” a small nonche, in the form of the body of a stag and the head of an eagle.

¶ A glance forward over the page of history will suffice to shew what strong reason the Lancastrian princes must have had for attempting to depress the family of Mortimer.



Shortly afterwards, on the return of the Scots from a destructive inroad they had made into Northumberland, they were intercepted and vanquished by the Earl and his son Hotspur, at Homildon\* hill, near Wooller: and Archibald third Earl of Douglas, their general, together with other great nobles, was taken prisoner. King Henry, however, being anxious to use the captives as a means of obtaining an advantageous peace with Scotland, forbade the Percies to treat for their ransom. This prohibition the Percies conceived to infringe on what was their due by the laws of war; and they resented it accordingly. In the end Douglas obtained his liberty by coalescing with Northumberland; and Mortimer by espousing the daughter of Glendower. And the Percies determined, like a branch of the Nevills† in a subsequent stage of history, to subvert the dynasty they had been so instrumental in raising; and formed, for that purpose, a confederacy with the Scotch and the Welch chieftain to place the young Earl of March on the throne. When the war was ready to break out, Northumberland was siezed with an illness at Berwick; and Hotspur, taking the command of the forces in his stead, and accompanied by Douglas, marched towards Shrewsbury to join Glendower. His uncle Worcester, the King's lieutenant for South Wales, revolted and joined him with reinforcements. Glendower had not yet come up, when Henry, with what power he could muster, hastened to encounter the insurgents—and, on the 21st of July 1403, mid the conflicting war cries of “St. George” and “Esperance, Percy”‡ began the battle of Shrewsbury.

The daughter and heiress of Lionel Plantagenet Duke of Clarence (elder brother of their ancestor John of Gaunt) married Edmond Mortimer Earl of March; and had transmitted to her descendants the lawful right to the crown, on the extinction, in the person of Richard II., of the issue of the eldest brother, the black prince. The representative of the house of Mortimer was then Edward Earl of March; who may be presumed to have been only restrained by his boyhood from pressing his undeniable claim to the throne. Sir Edward Mortimer was his uncle, and, as such, the legitimate guardian of his interests. The young Earl indeed died without issue; but left a sister and heiress Ann Mortimer, who married Richard Plantagenet Duke of York to whom she was first cousin twice removed: and their grandson under the name of Edward IV. recovered, in her right, that crown from the line of Lancaster which it had so long usurped.

\* See Table Book, Hist. Div., vol. i. p. 145. The battle fought here forms the groundwork of Walter Scott's drama of “Halidon Hill,” in which the scene of action is transferred from Homildon to the earlier battle field of Halidon. There is a ballad, on the subject of this battle fought here, at page 152 of Bell's “Rhymes of Northern Bards.”

† See Table Book, Traditional Div., vol. ii. p. 64.

‡ “Esperance en Dieu” is still the motto of the Percy: of whom, in relation to this motto, it has been elegantly said: “At one moment the provincial monarch of unmeasured lands, the lord of impregnable fortresses, and the chief of countless vassals—the next the tenant of a prison, from which there was seldom any other escape than death.—These vicissitudes of fortune taught them the instability of all human greatness, and that the only sure trust is ‘*Esperance en Dieu.*’”—Quarterly Review, No. cxliii.





HOTSPUR'S TOWER, BONDGATE, ALNWICK.

Here the honourable rivalry of the Percy and the Douglas, fighting for once on the same side, developed itself in prodigies of valour. At length Hotspur fell by an arrow from a nameless hand: and with him fell the confidence of the rebels; for

“That earth, that bore him dead,  
Bore not alive so stout a gentleman.”\*

The rout was now general: Douglas and Worcester were taken prisoners, and the latter was beheaded.

After the suppression of the rebellion, the King became formally reconciled to Northumberland,† and “at the request of the commons, commanded the Earl of Northumberland and Ralph Neville Earl of Westmoreland” [who in the late insurrection had remained firm to the Lancastrian cause] “in token of perfect amity to kiss each other in open parliament.”‡ But the wounds that rankled in Northumberland's breast were only superficially cured. He secretly connived at the insurrection headed by Mowbray and Archbishop

\* This exclamation over his body is by Shakspeare placed in the mouth of his generous enemy Henry prince of Wales. Part 1. Hen. IV. act. 5. scene 4. And here we may observe that there is no more authority for Shakspeare's account that Hotspur died by the sword of the Prince of Wales, than there was for that of the ballad that Douglas died by the sword of Hotspur.

† In Brydges' Collins, vol. ii. p. 262, it is stated that it was not thought advisable to proceed with much harshness against this Earl, “lest all the north should revolt to the Scots”—So much more powerful in those times were the ties which bound the retainer to his immediate lord than those which united him to his king!

‡ Brydges', Collin's Peerage, vol. ii. p. 263.



Scrope. And, after the suppression of\* that, being pursued by the King into Northumberland, he fled into Scotland, taking with him his grandson the young Henry Percy, the only son of Hotspur and the hope of the house. Thence in 1407 the Earl together with Lord Bardolf his companion in exile returned to Northumberland and his ancient tenantry and retainers flocked to the standard of their banished lord—He published a proclamation that he came to relieve the nation from their many and unjust oppressions, and advanced with his forces as far south as Knaresborough, in Yorkshire. But was defeated and slain † at Bramham moor, in that county, by Sir Thomas Rokeby, the sheriff; and his head, white with age, was forwarded by the victor, as a trophy, to London.‡

Henry Percy, the second Earl, succeeded, on the death of his grandfather, to an inheritance of confiscated estates and attainted titles. But the Scots in whose care the old man had left him, showed their generosity in bringing him up as kindly as if he had not been the whelp of the lion breed which had been the defence of the English, and the terror of the Scottish border. And he is said never to have forgotten his obligations to that nation.

In the early part of the reign of King Henry V., while young Percy was still in exile, a conspiracy was formed, by the Earl of Cambridge, to bring him back from Scotland, together with the imposter Thomas de Trumpyngton, who, from a remarkable similarity of appearance, was enabled to personate the deceased King Richard II., and, with their aid, to raise an insurrection. The plot was discovered; and the Earl of Cambridge paid with his life the penalty of treason. Immediately after this the name of “Henry de Percy, Knt,” § appears in the list of the retinue of Henry V., in his voyage on that expedition which led to the victory of Agincourt; though it is not enrolled in the list of its heroes: and therefore the party designated by it may be presumed, to have been either wounded at the previous siege of Harfleur, or left there in garrison. It seems improbable that this person|| was the young representative of the family, as the accounts we have of the latter state that he was afterwards sent for by the king from Scotland; and therefore we

\* For the mode of its suppression see Table Book, Legendary Div., vol. ii. pp. 58-9.

† 29 February, 1408.

‡ On the tragical end of this Earl there is a quaint old poem which is given in the Table Book, Traditional Div., vol. i. p. 130.

§ Sir Harris Nicolas' battle of Agincourt, page 383, second edition.

|| This Sir Henry Percy appears likely to have been the son of Sir Thomas Percy, a younger brother of Hotspur; and, if so, he would stand in the relation of first cousin to the personage now under notice in the text. He would in all probability, have been in

presume that he was then remaining there. However, he, in the early part of the reign of Henry V., was restored to his family lands and honours by the young monarch, whose cousin the Lady Eleanor Nevill he had married; and who was moved towards him by the intercession of his aunt the Countess of Westmoreland, daughter of John of Gaunt, as well as by the merits and misfortunes of the Northern chieftain. And for thus much of its facts, the beautiful ballad of the "Hermit of Warkworth,"† of which the Percy and his bride are the hero and heroine, has its warrant in history. Nor had the house of Lancaster reason to repent of its kindness to the exile,‡ for, as his grandfather and father had died fighting for its subversion, he and four of his sons fell fighting in its defence.

"In the third year of King Henry VI., he, for the better confirmation of the dignity of Earl of Northumberland, obtained a charter of creation thereunto, with the yearly fee of £20. 'nomine comitis' out of the profits of that county."§ About eleven years later, a battle, rather of a private than a national character, is alleged to have taken place, between this Earl of Northumberland and Earl William Douglas of Angus, at Pepperden, near the Cheviot Hills.|| This, as it was

that gay cavalcade, whose advance to the place of embarkation is thus described by Drayton with so much of the glow of chivalry :—

"The nobler youth, the common rank above,  
On their curveting coursers mounted fair,  
One wore his mistress' garter; one her glove;  
And he a lock of his dear Lady's hair;  
And he her colours, whom he most did love—  
There was not one but did some favour wear  
And each one took it on his happy steed  
To make it famous by some knightly deed." *Battle of Agincourt.*

The line of Sir Thomas Percy is mentioned in Collins' Peerage, vol. ii. of the supplement, p. 684. It may be remarked here that the article on the Northumberland title in Collins' Peerage, which evinces an intimate acquaintance with the papers of the family, is alleged, in Sir Egerton Brydges' Restituta, vol. iii. p. 520, to have been drawn up by Dr. Thomas Percy, the Bishop of Dromore.

† See pp. 70—1.

‡ Hume, in chapter xxi. of his History of England, speaking of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, says :—"the whole North of England, the most warlike part of the kingdom, was by means of these two potent noblemen, engaged warmly in the interests of Lancaster."

§ Collins' Peerage.

|| Ridpath, in his Border History, p. 401, quoting a passage from Hollinshead's Chronicles, which states that, on the part of the English, were slain there "Henrie of Cliddesdale, John Oglile, and Richard Persie, with fifteen hundred other of Gentlemen and commons, of which gentlemen forty were knights," adds that the Percy had, on this occasion, been met "in his own territories at a place called Pepperden on Bramish, not far from the mountains of Cheviot." The fall here of Richard Percy (probably a cadet of the Northumberland family) may well have suggested the slaughter of the Percy to the writer of Chevy chase.



consequent upon an incursion made by the English Earl into Scotland, is suggested in Brydges' edition of Collins' Peerage, to have afforded the outline of the ballad of Chevy Chase \* of which the old version moved the stout heart of Sir Philip Sidney more than the sound of a trumpet,† while the Homeric spirit of the more modern version has received the highest eulogium from the critical Addison.‡

On the breaking out of the wars of the roses § in 1455, this Earl, who had been appointed Constable of England by Henry VI., was slain fighting near the King at the battle of St. Albans,|| and was buried in the abbey there. Before passing to the sons of this Earl, it should be observed that his martial habits had not led him to forget the interests of literature; since he is commemorated amongst

\* The battle of Chevy Chase, however, is alleged in the ballads to have led to that of Homildon. The older version says:—

“As our noble Kyng made his a-vowe,  
Lyke a noble prince of renowen,  
For the deth of the lord Perse  
He dyd the battel of Hombyll-down;”

and that we have already seen took place two reigns previously. Under all circumstances then, the most probable conclusion seems to be, that, in the time of this or the previous Earl of Northumberland, the Percy had violated the laws of the borders by crossing to Scotland to hunt without the leave of the Scottish warden; and that the Douglas had in consequence attacked him; and that between the hunting party of the one and a body of the retainers of the other a conflict had arisen amongst the Cheviot hills, too unimportant to be recorded by historians; but which the bards have amplified and embellished by incorporating into it, besides some imaginary details, all the most striking incidents of the border wars of that age. In the Chorographia, printed originally in 1649, and, at page 41 of the edition of 1813, it is stated, “These Cheviot hills is most famous for the hunting of the Earle of Northumberland; at the hunting, the Earle Douglas of Scotland, who met him with his forces and engaged one the other, where was great bickering and skirmishes, to the losse of many men; where both Earles fought valiently, called to this day Cheviot Chase.” And oral tradition of the battle may be presumed to have descended to the period at which this was first printed.

† Sir Philip Sydney's Defence of Poetry.

‡ Spectator, Nos. 70. 74.

§ Perhaps the reader will have no objection to be here reminded of the occasion to which Shakspeare assigns the selection of these party badges. At a meeting of some great Lords in the Temple garden, Richard Plantagenet, afterwards Duke of York, exclaims:—

“In dumb significance proclame your thoughts—  
Let him, that is a true-born gentleman,  
And stands upon the honour of his birth,  
If he suppose that I have pleaded truth,  
From off this brier pluck a white rose with me.”

To which John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, in behalf of his own near kindred of the house of Lancaster, answers:—

“Let him that is no coward, nor no flatterer,  
But dare maintain the party of the truth,  
Pluck a red rose from off this thorn with me.”

Hen. VI. Part 1. Act 2, Scene 4.

|| 23 May, 1455.

the benefactors of Oxford, for having, at University college there, founded three fellowships for those born in the dioceses of Durham, Carlisle, or York.

Of his younger children, Thomas Percy was created Lord Egremont—a title taken from a property in Cumberland possessed by the Earl, his father. He fell in 1460 in the defeat at Northampton, fighting for the house of Lancaster; and left a son, John, who seems probably to have been deterred by the poverty entailed on the partisans of the vanquished, from assuming his father's title.\*



PERCY'S CROSS, HEDGELEY MOOR.

Sir Ralph Percy was seneschal of his father's court at Alnwick: and Percy's cross, on the battle field of Hedgeley moor, still attests

\* Brydges' Collins', vol. ii. p. 281.



the gallantry and the death of him who would not seek his own safety by flight, at the expense of "the bird in his bosom,"—his loyalty to his king he acknowledged.\* He transmitted a line of descendants,† some of the earlier of whom appear to have been pensioned, and employed by their opulent cousins the Earls of Northumberland.‡

Sir Richard Percy fell at Towton field, fighting like his father and his brother on the side of Lancaster.

William Percy, an ecclesiastic, was made Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Bishop of Carlisle.

\* See Table Book, Historical Div. vol. i. pp. 161–2.

† The reader, weary of the gleam of this unbroken line of mailed barons, may long to find the family history diversified and adorned by the soft diffusive light of literature. If so, he will rejoice to see one, who has contributed so successfully to our ballad literature as the author of the "Hermit of Warkworth," and who has done so much to revive the taste for it as the editor of "The Reliques of Ancient Poetry," appended here, as a descendant, to a race which has produced so many ballad heroes.

Dr. Thomas Percy, the distinguished bishop of Dromore, was born at Bridgnorth in Shropshire, in 1728, and died in 1811. He was descended from the Percies of Worcester, of which city his great great grandfather, Thomas Percy, was mayor in 1662. (See a printed pedigree inserted in the copy of Nash's Worcestershire in the King's library in the British Museum between pp. 94 and 95 of the second Volume; and also p. 318 of the same Volume). This Thomas Percy was the son of Richard Percy (Nash's Worcestershire, vol. ii. p. 121), and Richard, through his father John and his grandfather Thomas Percy, was the great grandson of John Percy of Worcester, who had settled there about the year 1520. From the coincidence of name and date, and from the correspondence of the arms and tradition in the families in Northumberland and Worcester, it has been stated that this John Percy of Worcester, was identical with John Percy who had been seated just before at Newton on the Sea in Northumberland; and who, it has been alleged, had been obliged in the reign of Henry VIII—a period most disastrous to the house of Percy—to fly from that neighbourhood, in consequence of some deed of violence. (From him to the children of the bishop of Dromore, the pedigree and its proofs are given complete in some fly sheets inserted between pp. 318 and 319 in the second volume of Nash's Worcestershire in the King's library in the British Museum, and the library of the Dean and Chapter of Durham). John Percy of Newton on the Sea was, according to Brydges' Collins, the son of Sir Ralph Percy of the text.

Before bidding adieu to the Bishop of Dromore, whose "attention to poetry has given grace and splendour to his studies of antiquity," it may be mentioned that Boswell has declared that he himself has examined the proofs of his descent from the Northumberland Percies, and that, "both as a lawyer accustomed to the consideration of evidence, and as a genealogist versed in the study of pedigrees, he is fully satisfied."—*Boswell's Life of Johnson*.

‡ To the cadets of their house the Earls of Northumberland appear to have exhibited great kindness; in so much so that in Brydges' Collins, vol. ii. p. 288. it is remarked of a member of this particular branch, that he "is not found to have enjoyed any office or emolument of any kind under his kinsman the Earl of Northumberland; contrary to the usual practice of this great family, whose offices of dignity or profit appear to have been given, with a preference to the inferior members of their noble house."—The high blood of ancient chivalry could afford to acknowledge a poor relation!

The eldest surviving son, Henry Percy, became third Earl at his father's death. He had previously married Eleanor Poynings the heiress to the baronies in fee of Poynings, Fitz-Payne, and Bryan, and had been summoned to the house of Lords in her right as Baron Poynings. This alliance is said to have been obtained for him by his great uncle, the wily Cardinal Beaufort.\* Yet, in days when the beauty and heiress was the prize of the tournament, and when natural guardians willingly resigned the persons and the broad lands of their fair charges into the hands of those, who proved by their prowess they were best enabled to defend both, it would hardly require the diplomacy of churchmen to obtain for the Percy an advantageous alliance.

He had during his father's life, been retained, at a fixed allowance, by Henry VI., to defend the town of Berwick and the East marches towards Scotland: and, on his father's death, he was permitted, in reward for his services there, to succeed at once to his inheritance, exempted from the feudal burden of reliefs. He is the Earl of Northumberland who forms one of the characters in the third part of Shakspeare's King Henry VI. In the wars of the roses his fortunes fluctuated with those of the house of Lancaster. He was with the victors in the battle of Wakefield;† and fell in the defeat at Towton,‡ where, with the gallantry of his race, he in vain led on the van.

Henry Percy, his only son and heir, was but a minor at the death and subsequent attainder of his father: yet the fears of Edward IV., confined him for eight long years in the Tower; during which, the Earldom of Northumberland, with its possessions, was enjoyed by one of the chiefs of the Yorkist party, John Nevill brother of Warwick the king-maker. The Percy was at length, however,

\* Brydges' Collins. It will be recollected that his mother was a daughter of the Earl of Westmoreland by his wife Joan de Beaufort, the sister of the powerful and ambitious Cardinal, the horrors of whose chamber still haunt us, where "he died and made no sign."—Henry VI. Part 2. Act 3, Scene 3.

† 30 Dec. 1460. See Table Book, Traditional Div. vol. ii. p. 63.

‡ 29 March, 1461. Here too on the same side fell his kinsman, Sir John Nevill. See Table Book, Traditional Div. vol. ii. p. 61, and also Historical Div. vol. i. p. 160.

The loss here, on the part of the vanquished, of their leaders is thus summed up (with the mistake of introducing the Earl of Westmoreland instead of his brother Sir John Nevill) in Drayton's poem of "the Miseries of Queen Margaret."

"Courageous Clifford first here fell to ground,  
Into the throat with a blunt arrow struck:  
Here Westmoreland receiv'd his deadly wound:  
Here died the stout Northumberland, that stuck  
Still to his sovereign; Wells and Dacres found  
That they had lighted on King Henry's luck:  
Trowlup and Horne, two brave commanders, dead;  
Whilst Somerset and Exeter were fled."



restored by this King to his freedom,\* his honours, and his possessions, in order thus to diminish the power of his predecessor, whose fidelity was no longer trusted:† and Nevill received in compensation the empty title of Marquis of Montague, with still more empty promises. Shortly after this, the anticipated revolt of Warwick and Montague placed the sixth Henry again on the throne. But, in the March of 1471, Edward returned from the brief exile into which he had been driven, and disembarked at Ravenspur, on the Yorkshire side of the Humber, where—an auspicious omen—Henry IV. had formerly landed. In Yorkshire the possessions and influence of the Percy were in those days overwhelming. The young Earl, however, did not oppose the march of Edward and his little army through that county: and thus, by his example discouraging the opposition of others, rendered, at a most critical period, a most important service to the house of York.‡ He, nevertheless, did not venture to lead his friends and retainers actually to join that standard, in fighting against which his own father and their kindred had fallen only ten years before. He was afterwards appointed by Edward to be warden of the east and middle marches towards Scotland: and, in the 22nd year of his reign, he was one of the chiefs in that army which, under the command of Richard Duke of Gloucester, advanced into Scotland, and took the city of Edinburgh.

On the accession of Richard to the throne, this Earl was constituted lord high chamberlain of England. At the battle of Bosworth§ field he was present but remained inactive; whether wavering between his recent obligations to the house of York, represented, in the male line, by the King, and his ancient family alliance with the line of Lancaster, represented, through the Beauforts, by Henry of Richmond;|| or influenced by prudence, or lethargy of character—pro-

\* He was released from the Tower 27 October, 1469. (9 Edw: 4). *Rymer's Fœdera*, xi. 649.

† Warkworth's *Chronicles* of the first 13 years of Edward 4. (printed for the Camden Society) p. 4.

‡ “Grete partye of the noble men and commons in thos parties were twords th’ Erle of Northumbarland, and would not stire with any lorde or noble man other than the sayde Erle or his commandment: and for soo muche as he sat still, in such wise yf the Marques” [of Montague, who, according to Lingard, was lying at Pontefract with an army sufficiently numerous to have overwhelmed the invaders] “wolde have done his besines to have assembled them in any manier of qwarell, neither for his love, whiche they bare hym non, ne for any commandment of higher authoritie, they ne wolde, in no cawse, ne qwarell, have assisted hym.” *Historie of the arrivall of K. Edward IV.* (printed for the Camden Society) pp. 6. 7.

§ 24 August, 1485.

|| His mother Margaret, the wife of Edmond Tudor Earl of Richmond, was daughter

bable results of his early confinement. Be this as it may, his conduct on this occasion satisfied the victor, and he was received into favour by the new dynasty of Tudor—a favour which, in four years, proved fatal to him; since he was employed by the King in enforcing the collection of an unpopular tax; and, was slain\* near Thirske in Yorkshire, by a mob who erroneously supposed him to be the adviser of it. His countess, Maud, the daughter of William Herbert first Earl of Pembroke, had borne him four sons and three daughters.

Of his younger sons, Sir William Percy was one of the commanders at Flodden-field, and is alleged † to have afterwards participated in the insurrection called the Pilgrimage of Grace.

Alan Percy was a priest.

Josceline Percy, who was employed in the management of the family estates, married Margaret Frost of Beverley, a Yorkshire heiress, and transmitted a line,‡ the elder branch of which con-

and heiress of John Beaufort Duke of Somerset, and great granddaughter of John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster.

\* 28 April 1489. On this tragic event Skelton has composed a poem called “An Elegy on Henry fourth Earl of Northumberland;” which is printed in Percy’s Reliques.

† Brydges’ Collins.

‡ Thomas Percy, a younger brother of it, was, according to a system of consideration pursued by this great family towards their own cadets, appointed auditor and constable of Alnwick to the ninth Earl of Northumberland, who stood to him in the relation of second cousin once removed; and, through him, at the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Earl had carried on some secret negotiations with James of Scotland, in order to secure the succession of that monarch. Thomas Percy was a convert to the church of Rome, though his kinsman, the Earl, was a protestant: and it has been alleged that James, with a view of rendering the Roman Catholic body propitious to his accession, made to Percy, on these occasions, flattering promises of indulgence to their faith; which, when securely seated on the throne, he disregarded. Percy, deceived himself, had been the means of deceiving others; who now looked upon him as a traitor to their cause. He appears to have been a man of turbulent character, for he had been previously connected with an insurrection; namely, that of the Earl of Essex in the time of Queen Elizabeth. He was an enthusiast in religion; and in all probability personally an injured man. Hence he was easily led to concert, together with a few desperate persons, that gunpowder-treason plot; in the midst of the horrors resulting from which he expected to avenge his private wrongs and to re-establish his religion. On its discovery, he fled to Holbeach-house in Worcestershire; in the court-yard of which, while defending himself, he was shot, 8 November 1605. Nash’s Worcestershire, Vol. I. page 587. Brydges’ Collins, pp. 303. and 332. Lingard’s History of England, Vol. IX. pp. 35. 57. 12mo. Ed. The conspirator was ancestor of descendants (now in the male line extinct or lost) who for a considerable period resided in Cambridge, and on whom the male representation of the family, in England at any rate, appears eventually to have devolved. A pedigree of the Percies of Beverley and of Cambridge is given in *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. II., pp 60-3. It is there remarked that an interesting feature in this pedigree is that it contains the names of several persons



tinued, for a long period, to reside in the neighbourhood of Beverley.

Henry Algernon\* Percy, the eldest son, was only eleven years old when, on the death of his father he succeeded as fifth Earl of Northumberland. In 1497, the year before he came of age, he was one of the commanders of the royal forces that dispersed the Cornish rebels, who had advanced to Blackheath. Six years later the honourable office was assigned to him of conducting the Princess Margaret† Tudor, the affianced bride of James IV., from Northamptonshire to Scotland; whence her descendants were soon destined to return—her granddaughter to ascend the scaffold, her greatgrandson the throne. In the early part of the reign of Henry VIII., he was in France with those English forces, which gained, before the walls of Terouenne, the victory called “the battle of

who, but for the attainder of 1572, would, on the death of the 11th Earl, and the rejection of the claim of the Trunkmaker, have become Earls of Northumberland; namely:—Allan Percy of Beverley, who died in 1692: Francis Percy, a stone-cutter of Cambridge, who died in 1717: Charles Percy, a common council man of Cambridge, who died in 1743; and the rev. Josceline Percy, who died in 1755: but it may since have appeared somewhat questionable whether George Percy, the youngest son of the 8th Earl, did not leave male descendants in America; and, if he did, these would have the priority.

\* The name of Algernon—a name much cherished in the Percy family—was originally a nick-name attached to William de Percy, a companion in arms of the Conqueror; and may be rendered in modern language “William with the Whiskers,” or “*Aux Moustaches*.—Brydges’ Collins.

† An account of her progress is given in the Table Book, Hist. Div. Vol. I. pp. 175-80.



OUTER GATEWAY, ALNWICK CASTLE.



Spurs," from the vigour with which the enemy used their spurs when they should have used their swords. And he returned again to France to accompany the king to the "Field of the Cloth of Gold."\* His tastes were as magnificent as befitted one of the highest nobles under the gorgeous dynasty of the Tudors:† but his expenditure exceeded the revenue of his vast estates, and entailed debt on his successor. He expired on the 19th May, 1527: and was the first Earl of Northumberland of his house that had died in his bed; so heavy was the tax to be paid for the excitement and power of feudal lordship.‡ By his wife Catherine Spencer,§ he left three sons and two daughters.

Of his daughters, the Lady Margaret Percy is presumed to be the heroine|| of the "Nut-brown Maid;" who, when her constancy is

\* Rutland Papers (printed for the Camden Society) p. 30.

† This is the Earl whose Household book of expenditure at Wresil and Lekinfield has been printed under the editorship of Dr. Thomas Percy, bishop of Dromore. Of this Earl and his family there is a notice in the preface to the Household book at pp. xx-iv.

‡ Inclusive of Hotspur, who did not live to come to the Earldom to which he was heir, five generations following had died violent deaths; and, inclusive of the Earl of Worcester, brother of the first Earl of Northumberland, five Earls had died violent deaths.

If we look back to the times in which these deaths occurred, we shall find that all, excepting the last, were in the wars of the disputed succession, which followed the Lancastrian usurpation—the most glorious, but the most tragic period of the Percy history. In feudal times, to the nobles themselves indeed, clothed in impenetrable armour from which the arrow glanced and by which the sword was turned, war had sometimes been divested of its havoc, and seemed a game in which there was little but the dignity and excitement of nominal danger: for, besides the protection of their coats of mail, they were defended in the hour of defeat by the avarice of the victor, whose interest would lead him to spare an opulent enemy in order to obtain his ransom. But, at length the barons, allied by blood to each other and to each rival claimant of the crown, entered into this contest with all the bitterness of a family feud; and every injury, itself retributory, was the forerunner of a severer retribution; till the armour, which defended the vanquished from the sword of the conqueror, reserved him only for the axe of his executioner; and the combatants, like Shylock in the play, preferred flesh to gold. It may be mentioned as an illustration of the peculiar bitterness with which these domestic hostilities were carried on, that, while we have observed such numbers of the Percies to have been swept away in these wars, it has fallen to our lot to notice here but one Percy, and he at best but a cadet, who lost his life in the border warfare with the Scots during all the centuries for which the Percies were the guardians of the English frontiers.

§ Her mother was the Lady Eleanor Beaufort, daughter and coheir of Edmond Beaufort Duke of Somerset, the younger brother of John Beaufort Duke of Somerset, in his descent from the latter of whom Henry VII. claimed the representation of the house of Lancaster. The countess of Northumberland and that monarch were therefore second cousins.

|| This is suggested with considerable ground of probability in Whitaker's History of Craven, in a note at page 229 of the first edition. The ballad of the "Nut brown Maid," is printed in Percy's Reliques.



tried by telling her of the outlawry of her lover, entreats to be allowed to share all his privations, rather

“than

That he should to the grene wode go,

Alone, a banyshed man.”

Her husband, Henry Clifford, who succeeded as eleventh Baron Clifford, and was afterwards created Earl of Cumberland, is recorded to have led, in his father's time, the life of an outlaw, at the head of a band of daring free-booters, levying contributions on the affrighted monks and villagers of Westmoreland and Yorkshire.

Passing on to the male descendants of the last mentioned Earl of Northumberland, we shall quickly find the executioner, after his short respite, again called in to play his part: and we shall observe, that the succession of the Earldom does not for the most part devolve in the same direct line from father to son that it has hitherto done.

Of his sons, the second, Sir Thomas Percy, married Eleanor daughter and co-heir of Sir Guiscard Harbotel\* of Beamish, in the county of Durham, and had a family by which the male line of the Percy was continued. In 1536 he was residing at Seamer, in Yorkshire, until the month of October, when those consecutive insurrections commenced, called “the Pilgrimage of Grace,” in consequence of their having been undertaken in behalf of the monastic establishments and ceremonials of Rome: † but he then immediately repaired to his mother at Wresil castle. Here he heard that Robert Aske “the great captain” had already been at the gates, with a numerous host who shouted “thousands for a Percy.” However, as he did not like the rising, he attempted to leave the neighbourhood; but found himself way-laid in every direction by the insurgents, who at last, between force and entreaty, induced him to join them. After the suppression of the last of the outbreaks of this “armed pilgrimage,” which was effected in the following spring, he was arraigned for treason, in consequence of his conduct on these occasions, and pleaded “not guilty:” but towards the conclusion of the trial, know-

\* Surtees' Durham, Vol. ii. p. 225.

† Another of the professed purposes of this “pilgrimage” was “the purifying of the nobility and the expulging all villan blood;” (Life of Henry VIII., by Lord Herbert of Cherbury) aimed probably at the minister Thomas Cromwell, who, though the son of a fuller (according to Lingard), or a blacksmith (according to Banks), near London, was raised to the barony of Cromwell and Earldom of Essex by the temporary favour of the King, by whom he had been employed in the confiscation of Church property. A similar object was proposed by the insurgents of 1569. Such appeals to the prejudices of the people have often been responded to; for the pride of the poorer classes is generally too high to submit to the government of one sprung from their own station.—By so unexpected an ally are the great principles of “degree, priority and order” upheld!

ing probably that in his day conviction was a sure consequence of a state prosecution, and that his only chance of appeasing his imperious monarch lay in entire submission, he withdrew his former plea and pleaded guilty. Sentence was then given that he should be hanged, drawn and quartered, at Tyburn: and shortly afterwards, in the June of 1537, it was accordingly executed.\*

The third son Sir Ingelram Percy† died in 1538.

\* The compiler of this sketch owes these particulars to the kindness of the author of the memorials of the rebellion of 1569; whose industry and ability are now engaged in tracing for publication the singular and interesting details of "the Pilgrimage of Grace."

† Sir Ingelram Percy is commonly stated to have died with no issue but an illegitimate daughter. From him however James Percy, the trunk-maker of Dublin, who in the time of Charles II. claimed the Earldom of Northumberland as heir male of the Percies, stated himself to be legitimately descended. The line of his alleged descent is given in a note to the later editions of Burke's *Peerage*. Some remarks on this claim are contained in Sir Egerton Brydges' *Restituta*, vol. ii. pp. 519, 528. Here it appears that the trunk-maker had at first claimed to be the great grandson of Sir Richard Percy, a younger son of the eighth Earl, and had then shifted his claim, and drawn his descent from this Sir Ingelram Percy younger son of the fifth Earl; and that afterwards his excuse for having selected the former descent was, that, believing himself sprung from the Earls of Northumberland, but not knowing the precise line, he had been advised "to fix upon the wrong party as the only way to find out the right." It is certainly no disproof of the noble descent of a person in humble circumstances that he himself should not always have known the precise line of it; or that he should have found a difficulty in tracing it. The heralds in their visitations took no account of the reduced descendants of cadets. To repair these omissions, there were no inquisitions after the death of those who had no land; and their wills (if wills they left) were probably proved in some petty local court where they were ill preserved and where there was no index. There are few parish registers to record their births, deaths, and marriages, that commence earlier than the latter end of the sixteenth century; and the lamp of oral tradition, when held up to the night of ages, is found so dim as only to render the darkness visible. In a few generations, especially after the laws against retainers were enforced, there was apt to be as little of correspondency between the chief of a great family and its distant members, as between the gold of the head and the iron and clay of the feet of that visionary image which troubled the spirit of the Eastern monarch. As an illustration of these positions, it may be mentioned that, however well established the descent of Francis Percy of Cambridge, (who was by trade a stone-cutter,) may now be from Josceline Percy younger son of the fourth Earl (see note in pp. 22, 23.), there is a letter to him from no less an authority than Sir William Dugdale, deducing his descent from Guiscard Percy, grandson of the fifth, and younger brother of the seventh and eighth Earls, and a letter to him also from the trunk-maker himself acknowledging cousinship with him, and assigning him a third descent, namely from a Robert Percy, whom he calls the second son of the above mentioned Sir Ingelram Percy. Both these letters are given in Banks' *Stemmata Anglicana*, and at pp. 29.—32. of the part of it forming the Appendix to vol. ii. of his *Extinct Baronage*.

The "Case of James Percy claymant to the Earldom of Northumberland" was printed in 1680 or 1685 in London, in folio. It is rare; but there is a copy of it in the library of the British Museum, so that the enquirer after truth may exercise his own judgment on its allegations. This subject shall be dismissed after observing that different genealogists have formed very different estimates of their truth; for Sir Egerton Brydges, who may



The eldest son and successor, Henry Algernon Percy, sixth Earl of Northumberland, had, during the life of his father, been placed amongst the gentlemen of the retinue of Cardinal Wolsey, as an introduction to public life. While thus situated, he became enamoured of the fair Anne Boleyn, then maid of honour to Queen Catherine; unconscious that his rival was his sovereign. The attachment is believed to have been returned: and it has been said by some to have even led to an engagement.\* But King Henry discovered it: and Wolsey was employed to break it off.† He, as the best expedient for parting the lovers, sent for the father of the young lord to court; and induced him to use all his parental authority in enforcing on him a marriage with another. And, about the year 1524,‡ Lord Percy became the husband of the Lady Mary Talbot, daughter of George fourth Earl of Shrewsbury. The marriage was childless and unhappy, and ended in a separation. The interference of the Cardinal was never forgiven either by the Queen or her early admirer, and he was in time made to feel the vengeance of both—Anne undermined his hold on the King's affections: and, when in 1530 he was at length arrested at Cawood Castle near York, Lord Percy, who had become Earl of Northumberland,|| carried the warrant.

The policy of the Tudors in depressing the power of the ancient

have some fellow feeling for a disappointed claimant, says, at vol. iii. p. 527 of his *Restituta*:—"I confess that, till I can receive the contradiction of a strong case on the other side, I cannot reflect on the statement disclosed in this publication of Percy without strong suspicions that there was a good deal of truth mingled up with his claim:" while the author of an article in the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, says, at vol. ii. pp. 57-8:—"the claim of James Percy the trunk-maker, which was commenced in 1672, and maintained with singular pertinacity until 1689, is notorious from its remarkable circumstances; but his statements never obtained credit from judicious enquirers."

\* Life of Henry the VIII. by Lord Herbert of Cherbury, fol. p.p. 285-6.

† There is a modern ballad, professing to contain the lamentation of the Earl on his separation from his lady love, given in the Table Book, Legendary Div. Vol. I. page 113.

‡ Lingard's History of England.

|| Thus in Shakspeare's Henry VIII., Griffith, relating to Queen Katherine the end of Wolsey, says:—

" the stout Earl Northumberland  
Arrested him at York, and brought him forward  
(As a man sorely tainted) to his answer." Act IV., Scene 2.

But the shade of Wolsey was shortly to be avenged; for, by a refinement of cruelty, the Earl of Northumberland was obliged to sit on the trial of Queen Anne. She was found guilty on the 15th day of May, 1536; and sentenced to "be brought to the green within the tower and there burned or beheaded, as shall please the King." On the same day, when the Lord Rocheford was brought to the bar, the Earl of Northumberland was "absent on account of a sudden illness."—Could this illness have arisen from the part he had been compelled to take in the sentence of the Queen?

For the latter part of this note acknowledgements are again due to the kindness of the author of the "Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569."

nobility, by forwarding an act of parliament to allow the breaking of entails, and by encouraging a lavish expenditure among their barons, while they filled the places of highest civil trust and emolument with persons of inferior birth, eventually did its work in the case of this Earl: and, towards the close of a life, whose dawn had been brilliantly promising, the pecuniary, as well as domestic, circumstances of Northumberland must have been desperate. His necessities, but not his will it may be presumed, consented to sue Cromwell, the upstart minister, for his interest to obtain for him the captaincy of Berwick. In a letter, dated from Topcliff, 6 November 1535, after stating that the death of Sir Thomas Clifford was expected, and that would make a vacancy, he thus proceeds:—"to whych rome, good Mr. Secretorye, I pray yow helpe me: wherby ye shall not only recover a pouer nobull man beyng in decaye, but also get your selff much wyrsheppe, that bye your meanes so pouer a man shall be recoveryd, as I am; and bynd me, my frendes, and them that shall come off me, ever, (as never the lese I am most bondon affore) next the Kyng our Maister, to be tword you and all yours duryng ouer lyffes." And then he adds, what his experience,\* perhaps, of the secretary may have taught him would be a still more moving appeal to his feelings:—"And, good Mr. Secretory, I shall not fayl to gyff you a 1000 markes for the sayme, bryngyng yt to pas."† Whether or not this vacancy actually did occur, and this humble suit was successful, the embarrasments of the Earl cannot have been removed; for, in the following spring, he alienated to the King in fee, by a deed of bargain and sale dated the 3rd of February, 26 Henry VIII, his house of Petworth and other lands in Sussex, his lands in Hackney in Middlesex, and large estates in Lincolnshire, Pembrokshire, Carmarthenshire, and Somersetshire, &c. And this dispositon of his

\* Cromwell, as well as Northumberland, had been retained in the establishment of Wolsey, and probably both were contemporaneously in his service. Cromwell has generally been believed to have, on the fall of Wolsey; been conspicuous for "his honest behaviour in his master's cause" (*Cavendish*), and to have eventually left his service with his sanction; as the Cardinal joined in the fears of his *protege* lest his fortunes should be sacrificed to his fidelity.

"Say, Wolsey—that once trod the ways of glory,  
And sounded all the depths and shoals of honour—  
Found thee a way, out of his wrack, to rise in."

Henry VIII., Act 3, Scene 2.

Yet the turn given by Dr. Lingard to Cromwell's conduct is, that he "despairing of the fortunes of the fallen favourite, hastened to court." It would be well, however, if the sectarian bias of Dr. Lingard, *pace tanti viri*, had never led him in a still less justifiable instance to foul the ashes of the distinguished dead. See the *Quarterly Review*, No. LXV. article 1.

† State Papers published by the Record Commission, Vol. v. p. 34.



property was, in the following spring, confirmed by Parliament.\* In the same session of Parliament another act† was passed, in the performance of certain covenants between the King and the Earl, settling all the other lands, that belonged to the Earl, upon himself and the issue of his body [of which there was none] and then upon the King “his heirs and successors for ever in augmentation and encrease of the imperial crown.” In this there are clauses saving to third parties their interests in such incumbrances as had previously‡ been made: and a small provision is thus reserved for his brother and heir presumptive, Sir Thomas Percy [who was not yet implicated in the Pilgrimage of Grace as it took place half a year later§], and for Henry and Thomas Percy sons of this brother.|| The difficulties in which the Earl allowed himself to be involved, and the disposition¶ he was in consequence led to make of the inheritance of his

\* An act of Parliament (27 Henry VIII. c. 38), passed in the spring of 1536, assures and confirms these extensive territories to the King in fee simple. See Statutes of the Realm, fol. 1817, Vol. III.

† 27 Henry VIII. c. 47. Statutes of the Realm, fol. 1817, vol. III.

‡ By sec. 17, the lands comprised in the Percy fee “equivalent in extent to half Craven,” were confirmed, “in consequence of a settlement,” to Henry Lord Clifford, in the event of his brother in law Northumberland dying without issue male. *Whitaker's Craven*, p. 235. 1st Ed. This territory was carried by the daughter and heiress of the fifth and last Earl of Cumberland, to her husband Richard Boyle Earl of Burlington and of Cork, and, through an heiress of this family, was transferred to the house of Cavendish, in which it is now vested.

§ The session called 27 Henry VIII., in which this and the previously mentioned acts were passed, commenced 4 February 1536, and the parliament itself was dissolved, 14 April 1536: but the Pilgrimage of Grace commenced as late as October, 1536, which was after the first session of the new parliament, and that, meeting 8 June in the same year, is styled 28 Henry VIII.

|| It is provided in this act (sec. 4.) that “Sir Thomas Percy, Knight, brother of the said Earl and his heirs and assigns” shall neither be prejudiced in the enjoyment of the manor of Kyldacle in Yorkshire which had been settled on him: nor (sec. 34) in an annuity of 100 marks out of the “Lordships and manors of Prowdehow, Ovyngham, Hedley, Harlowe, Horseley, Kyrkewhelpyngton, Ingo, Britley, and Baresford” in Northumberland: nor in the “constablesyp of the castell of Prowdehowe aforsayde with xli. yerly goyng out of the premysses for the exercysyng of the same offyce, nor also to or for the Stuardship of the seide Lorships manors Londs Tentements and other Heredytaments aforsayd with vi li. xiiis. iiiid. sterlyng to and for exercysyng of the same offyce; all whiche premysses the sayd Sir Thomas Percy brother of the sayde Erle, and Thomas and Henry sonnes of the sayde Sir Thomas, have to them and to ther assigns for terme of there lyves and the longest lyver of them, as by graunte of the sayde Erle,”——“more pleynley appereth.”

¶ He might, perhaps, have been the less reluctant to transfer that part of the family possessions which was to vest in the crown; for he might entertain the hope that it would be kept together, and would, at some future period, be restored to his heirs,—a hope which the event would to a great extent have justified.



ancestors have rightly acquired for him the appellation of "Henry the Unthrifty."

The Earl expired together with all his accumulated titles, 30th June 1537, about the period of the execution of his next brother and heir Sir Thomas Percy; and not improbably of a heart broken at beholding the ruin of his house. The vial devoted to wrath, too full to hold this last calamity, shivered.

It will be recollected that Sir Thomas Percy, the attainted brother of the late Earl, had a family. It consisted of two sons who grew to manhood, named Thomas and Henry; besides a third son Guiscard, who is presumed to have died in infancy, and female issue. These had the mortification to see the title of Northumberland raised to a Dukedom, and, together with much of the lands of their ancestors, conferred by Edward VI., on John Dudley, the father in law of the Lady Jane Grey, the ill-fated and favourite cousin once removed of the young monarch. However, the wanned crescent\* of the Percies



PRUDOW CASTLE (ANCIENTLY THE SEAT OF THE UMFRAVILLES) GRANTED BY HENRY VI. TO THE FAMILY OF PERCY.

\* The perhaps ideal origin of this badge of the Percies is represented as forming one



was soon again to fill its horns. Mary succeeded to the throne, and the Dudleys in their turn were attainted\* for treason. The attachment of the house of Percy to the connection with Rome would ensure it the favourable consideration of the new Queen. And soon (in 1557) the elder of the two brothers so confirmed her regard by putting down a rebellion at Scarborough, that she restored to him those of his family possessions† which had lately been held by Dudley; and created anew‡ the Earldom of Northumberland§ and the barony of Percy with other titles, with limitations in tail male to himself and similar limitations in remainder to his brother Henry, after they had passed from their family for an interval of twenty of the themes of the minstrels of their house.

“ They sung, how in the Conqueror’s fleet  
Lord William shipp’d his powers;  
And gained a fair young Saxon bride,  
With all her lands and towers.

Then journeying to the Holy Land,  
There bravely fought and died  
But first the *silver crescent* won  
Some paynim Soldan’s pride.      *Hermit of Warkworth.*

\* See “A Lamentable Ditty” on this subject, in the Table Book, Legendary Div., Vol. I. page 91.

† Besides these, the Percies eventually acquired, through Dudley’s attainder, Sion house, in Middlesex. Formerly a nunnery, it had been confiscated and granted to Dudley; but was restored by Mary to its ancient use. In the time of Elizabeth it was again secularized; and, though not one of the ancient Percy possessions, was at length granted by her to Henry Percy 9th Earl of Northumberland.

‡ Sir Harris Nicolas’ Synopsis of the Peerage, p. 483.

§ In 1558, the newly created Earl merited the continuance of her favour by commanding, together with his brother, the border cavalry which repelled at Grindon, not far from the Duddoe Stones, a formidable band of Scotch who were ravaging the country. Ridpath’s Border History, p. 590.



DUDDOE STONES.

years. However, after the accession of Elizabeth, the same religious opinions entangled him in a knot of difficulties, which he attempted, like his father, to cut with the sword.

The captivity of the beautiful Queen of Scots, the heiress presumptive to the crown of England, had awakened the sympathy of many of its nobility: but especially of those attached to the connection with Rome; since they hoped through her means eventually to obtain ascendance or toleration for their faith. Amongst these the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland had been brought to entertain \* projects for her liberation.

“ And woe to the mermaid’s wyly tongue;  
And woe to the fire was in her ’ee;  
And woe for the wicking spell she flung,  
That lur’d the North Star from the sky ! ”

It, nevertheless, does not appear that the Earls were then prepared to rush into open rebellion: but, as their consultations with their friends had excited a suspicion, which their explanations had been unable to remove, a letter was, on the 13th of November, 1569, delivered to Northumberland at his Yorkshire castle of Topcliff, peremptorily requiring his immediate attendance at court. This was at night followed by a hostile clamour about the castle; arising either from the zeal of headstrong friends who wished to startle him into committing † himself to a rebellion in which their hearts were already enlisted; or the loyalty of officious enemies who, though without warrant, expected to gain credit by arresting him. ‡ Alarmed for his personal safety, he immediately took horse and fled towards Alnwick: but unfortunately called, on his road, on the Earl of Westmoreland at Brancepath. And it was there determined to unfurl the banner of the five wounds of Christ against the protestant Queen. As “ the Rising of the North, § ” was unconcerted, its failure was generally anticipated. And hence those even who wished success to its objects, but who were sufficiently distant to escape being drawn in by its sudden vortex, were found shrinking from its standard, or marching against

\* See Sir C. Sharp’s “ Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569,” pp. 193—6.

† Camden’s Annals under the year 1569.

‡ The account written in the spring of 1572, by Lesley, bishop of Ross, the faithful adherent of the Scottish Queen, and published in “ Anderson’s Collections relating to Mary Queen of Scotland,” Vol. III. p. 81.

§ The events connected with this rebellion have been celebrated in several ballads, as “ The Rising of the North,” given in the Table Book, Legendary Div., Vol. I. page 43; “ Jock o’ the Side,” page 37; “ Northumberland betrayed by the Douglas,” page 51; and another on the same subject with the last at Vol. II. page 12; “ An Answer to the Proclamation of the Rebels,” p. 113; “ The Pope’s Lamentation ” on their defeat, p. 154; “ Claxton’s Lament ” in the “ Memorials of the Rebellion,” p. 270.



it. On its suppression, \* the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland fled into Scotland for safety. Northumberland was there treated as a prisoner; and in the June of 1572, given up by the Earl of Morton, † into whose power he had passed, to Queen ‡ Elizabeth. He was then conducted to York, and beheaded there in a place called the Pavement, the 22nd of the following August. To crown the infamy of the transaction, his betrayer received in gold the price of blood.

Sir Walter Scott under feelings of shame and indignation, writes thus of the conduct of his countrymen:—"It was an additional and aggravating circumstance, that it was a Douglas who betrayed a Percy; and when the annals of their ancestors § were considered, it was found that while they presented many acts of open hostility, many instances of close and firm alliance, they never, till now, had afforded an example of any act of treachery exercised by one family against the other."||

The seventh Earl of Northumberland had by his wife ¶ the Lady Anne Somerset, daughter of the second Earl of Worcester, a son who died in early life, and four daughters; the coheirs of the eldest branch of the house of Percy. Of these daughters three were born previously, and one about nine months subsequently to the rebellion of their father: and they appear to have been early inured to poverty and hardship.\*\* The eldest daughter Elizabeth †† became the wife of

\* See Table Book, Historical Div. Vol. I. pages 213—14.

† See Ridpath's Border History, p. 645. James Douglas, fourth Earl of Morton, was then the most powerful minister under the Scottish regent: and about six months afterwards himself attained to the regency.

‡ Lord Hunsdon, who in behalf of Elizabeth then received the custody of Northumberland, says of him "trewley he semes too follow hys owld humors, reddyar to talke of hawks and hownds than any thing els." Sir C. Sharp's Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569, p. 330. Such a man, attached to the simple pleasures of a country gentleman of his day, and possessed of endearing rather than commanding qualities, was little calculated to lead with success the rebellion into which untoward circumstances had plunged him.

§ A brief, but accurate account of the illustrious house of Douglas, will be found in the 2nd edition of Burke's Extinct Peerage.

|| Tales of my Grandfather, vol. iii. chap. 7.

¶ The Countess of Northumberland eventually found a retreat in Brussels, and is believed to have been accompanied by some cadets of the Percy family. There was a Belgian gentleman of the name of Percy resident in Brussels in 1838, who claimed to be an offshoot of the house of Northumberland, and who, not improbably, might be descended from one of these.

\*\* Sir C. Sharp's Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569, p. 349.

†† Amongst the lineal heirs of the daughters of the Earl mentioned above, would now lie in abeyance, were it not for the attainder of their ancestor, the ancient barony by writ of Percy, with the other baronies in fee of the family: and probably the older Earldom

Richard Woodroffe, of Wolley, Esq. The second, Lucy, was married to Sir Edward Stanley of Tong Castle, grandson of the third Earl of Derby.\* The third, Jane, was espoused by Lord Henry Seymour, second son of the first Duke of Somerset, but died without issue.† And Mary,‡ the youngest, born under the malencholy star that watched the ruin of her father's house, made early vows of celibacy,

of Northumberland also; as it is stated by Banks to have been conferred in the first year of Richard II. "*Sibi et hæredibus suis.*" For the descendants of this daughter see Banks' *Baronia Anglica Concentrata*. Vol. II. p. 369.

\* Burke's Peerage, title Earl of Derby. Their daughter and coheir Venetia Stanley, a lady of extraordinary beauty, but "of far purer birth than fame," became the wife of Sir Kenelm Digby, "whose name is almost synonymous with genius and excentricity." Preface to the private memoirs of Sir Kenelm Digby. For the descendants of Venetia Stanley see introduction to *ibid.*

† Banks' *Bar. Ang. Con.*

‡ Some writers, following Brooke, have stated that there was another sister Mary, older than this, and married to Sir Thomas Grey of Werk. Vincent however states that he made enquiries of contemporaneous members of the Percy family, and found that there were not two Maries. The mistake may probably be thus accounted for.—As the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland were attainted on the same occasion; and, as each left daughters only, their families might easily have been confounded with each other; and, as Katherine Nevill, a daughter of the latter Earl, actually did marry Sir Thomas Grey. Such a confusion might produce this erroneous statement. There is an elaborate pedigree of Grey of Heton, Chillingham, and Wark, in Raine's North Durham: and it may be mentioned, in confirmation of this view, that there, though the marriage with Katherine Nevill is mentioned, no notice occurs of an alliance with Mary Percy. However it may have been that, according to the fashion of an age when the inclinations of the bride elect were little consulted, the lady Mary Percy had in childhood been simply betrothed to Sir Thomas Grey.



WARKWORTH CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND, GRANTED BY EDWARD III. TO THE FAMILY OF PERCY



and eventually became founder and prioress of a convent of Benedictine nuns at Brussels.

Sir Henry Percy, the brother of the last Earl, was able, spirited, ambitious and intriguing: yet something of a pervading restraint seems to have been thrown over his daring character by the strength of his affection towards his wife and children; and by his anxiety that such moderate \* portion of the family possessions as had been restored should be transmitted to his own issue. † He had been privy to the plans for the liberation of Mary, formed previously to the “Rising.”



HULNE ABBEY, IN THE GROUNDS OF THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND NEAR ALNWICK.

But, on his brother's sudden rebellion, foreseeing probably that it must be unsuccessful, and trusting that his allegiance would save the estates and titles from being again confiscated entirely from the house of Percy, he made a shew of loyalty to his Queen, ‡ took the joint command of a force with Sir John Forster one of her captains, and is said to have even come to a skirmish with the rebels. § After the suppression of this rebellion, his connivance at former plots became

\* Memorials pp. 337. 355. And, for the amount of rental, at that period, of the Percy property in Northumberland, see note therein p. 83.

† Idem, p. 356.

‡ Idem, p. 55.

§ It may not be improbable that the skirmishes, mentioned in a letter Idem, p. 109. Holinshed's Scotland, p. 397. and Stow's Annals, p. 664, (in the latter two of which, Sir Henry Percy is mentioned as having taken part,) allude to the same transaction, though there is a slight difference in their dates.



known to the court : But it is probable he found a secret friend there in the person of Cecil ; the marriage of whose son to Dorothy Nevill, the daughter and coheir of the fourth Lord Latimer and his own sister in law, he seems previously to have forwarded\*—an alliance which must have been highly advantageous to the aspiring family of the minister. However he was indicted, in Easter term 1572, (the crime by perhaps a mild construction being treated as a contempt) “for that he with divers others, did conspire for the delivery of the Queen of Scots out of the custody of the Earl of Shrewsbury †” and, on pleading guilty, was fined 5,000 marks ; though their payment was never exacted. And the house of Percy was thus made to afford almost contemporaneously an instance both of the clemency, and of the rigour of the Queen. He succeeded his brother in the estates and newly created titles, under the late entail by Queen Mary unaffected by his attainder ; ‡ and thus became eighth Earl of Northumberland. But he was afterwards suspected of participating in a plot, charged against Sir Francis Throgmorton, to effect the liberation of the Queen of Scots by a conjoint invasion and rebellion : and was, in 1584, in consequence, sent to the tower. Here on the 21st of June 1585, he was found shot in bed ; but whether by the hands of an assassin or a suicide has been by some supposed to remain still a problem in history. However the attendant circumstances, followed by the verdict of the coroner’s jury, § make it more reasonable to conclude that, anticipating a conviction, and true to his ruling passion, zeal for the prosperity || of his line, he rashly determined to take his own life, in order that, by dying unattainted, he might be able to transmit ¶ to his family their interest in his estates ; and, as he himself is said to have expressed it, “to balk Queen Elizabeth of their forfeiture.” \*\*

After his accession to the title, this Earl had lived much at

\* Memorials p. 352.

† Official memorandum from the records of the court of Queen Bench printed in Corbett’s state trials, Vol. I. 1115.

‡ “In virtue of Philip and Mary’s letters patent, May 1, 1557, granting the Earldom to Thomas and the heirs male of his body, and in failure thereof to Henry with the same limitations : the latter grant being distinct from that to his elder brother, and not affected by his attainder ; though it could not take place till his decease.” Carte’s History of England Vol. III. p. 590.

§ Corbett’s State Trials, Vol. I. 1122.    || Idem.

¶ “If a traitor dies before judgment pronounced, or is killed in open rebellion, or is hanged by martial law, it works no forfeiture of his land : for he was never attainted of treason.” Blackstone’s Commentaries Vol. IV. p. 382. And by *felo de se*, unlike the felony committed by the murder of another, the personal property only is forfeited.

\*\* Carte’s History of England Vol. III. p. 590.



Petworth in Sussex; for the border had ceased to be the post of danger and of honour. The influence of England was then all powerful in the Scottish counsels; and in the next reign the crowns of both kingdoms were fixed on the same head; and the days of northern chivalry had drawn to a close. What remains, therefore, of the Percy descents shall be hastily glanced over. The Earl had married Catherine Nevill, the daughter and coheir of John fourth Lord Latimer, to whom had devolved a confluence of baronies by writ,\* which remain yet in abeyance amongst the descendants of his daughters †—By her the Earl had eight sons ‡ and three daughters.

Henry Percy, the eldest son was in his 22nd year when, on the death of his father, he became ninth Earl of Northumberland. Three years later he seized the opportunity of gaining honourable distinction by joining as a volunteer in the expedition which destroyed the the Spanish Armada. The sufferings of his family in the cause of Mary were likely to recommend him to the confidence of her son: and in the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth, whilst yet some uncertainty hung over the succession of James, he deserved the gratitude of that King and of the English and Scotch nations by forwarding by his secret counsels that auspicious event which finally produced their union. Yet, though unlike his ancestors he had embraced the doctrines of the reformation, he was suspected of a connivance in the

\* Besides, according to Banks, the coheirship of the Earldom of Suffolk.—See *Baronia Anglica Concentrata*, Vol. I.

† After the death of the 4th Baron Latimer, that title was claimed (Camden's Annals Sub. A. D. 1585) and, apparently, for a short time even assumed, by a male collateral relative; but, as it was a barony by writ, the daughters and their descendants as heirs general have a preference over the cousin as heir male. See *Baronia Anglica Concentrata*.

‡ Of these George went to Virginia, and is alleged in Brydges' Collins, Vol. II. p. 328, to have "died in March 1632, having never been married" yet it is stated in *Baronia Anglica Concentrata* that in 1827 there were, amongst the landholders in Virginia, "two brothers of the name of Percy who claimed descent from the said Mr. George Percy." Two other of the sons of the eighth Earl, Sir Charles and Sir Josceline Percy were involved in the Earl of Essex's insurrection; and were committed on that account to the Fleet prison; but were afterwards pardoned. It is curious to observe that in one of the Cecil papers published in Lodge's Historical Illustrations, Vol. III. p. 120, their names are spelled "Pearcy;" while the surname of the 7th Earl of Northumberland is, in the register of his burial at St. Crux, York, spelled "Pearsey:" and hence it is reasonable to presume that "John Pearsye" a gentleman usher, and "Robert Pearsey" a gentleman and household servant, to this Earl, who were both confined to Durham jail for participation in the rising of the North (*Memorials* p. 129) would have been drawn by warmer ties than those of mere servitude to the standard of their unfortunate Lord. In the accounts commonly given of the family of the eighth Earl all the sons, except the eldest are said to have died without issue.

gunpowder plot, in consequence solely of his friendship for his kinsman Thomas Percy,\* his constable of Alnwick castle, who was one of the conspirators: and, in 1605, a little more than two years after the accession of James, was arrested on that ground, and, through a sentence of the court of Star chambers, was fined £20,000 and imprisoned above fifteen years in the tower. The Earl however, who was much adicted to scientific pursuits, lived for some years after his release in great splendour, and died in the year 1632, on the 5th of November—the day which had brought upon him so many troubles.†

By his wife the lady Dorothy Devereux, sister of the Earl of Essex, the favourite of Queen Elizabeth, he had, two daughters, and two surviving sons. The elder of the daughters, the Lady Dorothy, timid, affectionate and sensible, conferred and received as much happiness,‡ as this chequered state admits of, in her marriage with Robert Sidney, second Earl of Leicester: while the younger, the Lady Lucy, haughty, eccentric and intriguing, found a field for the display of her rare beauty§ and talent in uniting herself to James Hay, an adventurous courtier whom the favour of James I. exalted to the Earldom of Carlisle. The younger of the sons, Henry Percy, was a gallant royalist general in the civil wars, and died unmarried; after having been elevated to the peerage by Charles I., with the title of Baron Percy of Alnwick.

Algernon Percy the elder son, succeeding his father, became tenth Earl of Northumberland. He was a man of great consideration with all parties. In the rupture between the king and parliament he eventually sided with the latter; possibly taking his notions of the gratitude of princes and the justice of the Star chamber from the experience of his father. Yet he deprecated the outrageous excess committed by his own party in the execution of their sovereign. He afterwards favoured the restoration; and then with even the royalists so high was his estimation that he was appointed to fill, at the coronation of Charles II., the dignified office of lord high constable. This Earl, who had resided much at Petworth, died, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, 13th Oct. 1668. He had been twice

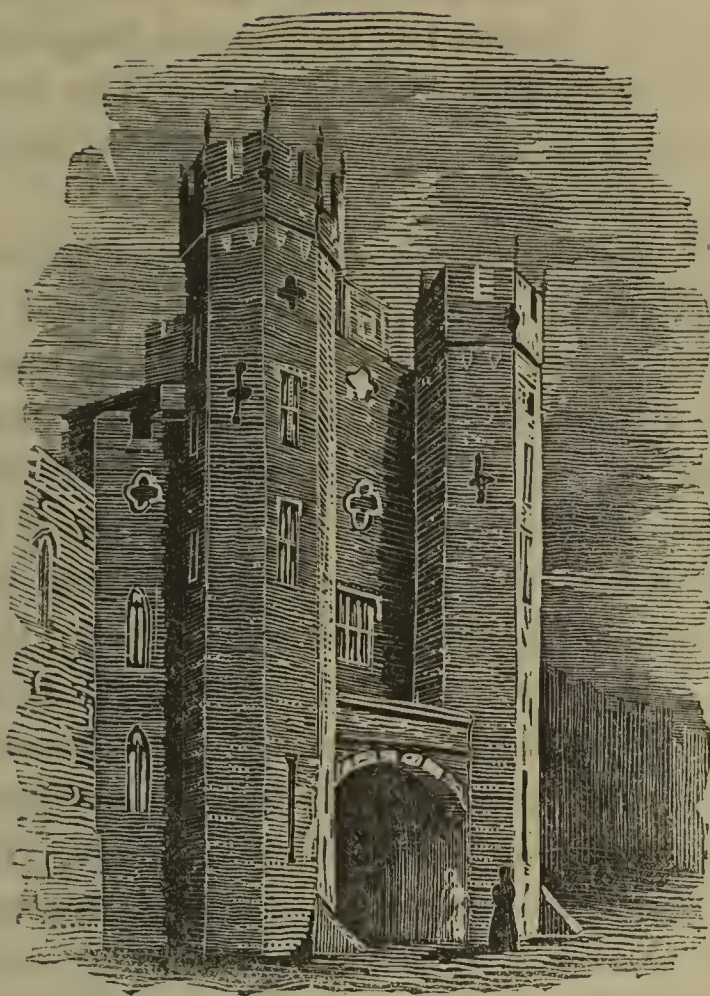
\* See Note, p. 22.

† Banks' Extinct Baronage, Vol. II. A memoir of this Earl is given in Lodge's Portraits.

‡ See extracts from her letters to her husband given in the sketch of her in Lodge's Portraits. She was mother of Algernon Sidney, celebrated as an enthusiastic republican and author of "Discourses Concerning Government," whose execution has been considered one of the judicial murders perpetrated by Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys.

§ Her beauty was such that Venus is styled, by the poet Waller, "The bright Carlisle of the court of Heaven."—*The country to my Lady of Carlisle*. There is a memoir of her in Lodge's Portraits.





INNER GATEWAY ALNWICK CASTLE.

married; but his issue male, an only son, was by his second wife, the Lady Elizabeth Howard,\* daughter of Theophilus second Earl of Suffolk.

Josceline Percy, eleventh† and last Earl of Northumberland of his line, was twenty-four years old at the demise of the late Earl his father. He was the sole hope of his noble house whose expectations were raised very high for him: nor were these doomed to be disappointed otherwise than by his premature death; which took place, 21st May, 1670, at Turin, as he was on his travels on the continent, after he had held possession of his honours a little less than two years. He had married the lady Elizabeth Wriothesley, the daughter and coheir of Thomas fourth Earl of Southampton, lord high treasurer of England: and had issue a son and two daughters. The son Henry, Lord Percy, the last heir apparent to the titles of his house died in infancy 2nd of May, 1668, more than two years before his father.

After these events, the Northumberland title and territory were for

\* By his marriage with this lady, the Earl acquired the noble residence at Charing Cross, London, which thence changing its name with its proprietors, is still enjoyed by their descendants.

† He was the eighteenth Lord of Petworth of his family. See Dallaway's *Sussex*, Vol. II. page 279.

a short time severed. The Earldom,\* afterwards raised to a Dukedom, was conferred by Charles II., on his own illegitimate son George Fitzroy; who, however, died without issue. The territory we shall find to have centered in the heiress of the last mentioned Earl of the Percy house.

The younger of the daughters, of the tenth Earl of Northumberland, the Lady Henrietta Percy, having died whilst an infant; the elder, the Lady Elizabeth Percy, became sole heiress of her father. She was married to Charles Seymour, known to history as the proud Duke of Somerset;† and had a large family;‡ of which the eldest surviving son Algernon Seymour, Duke of Somerset§ by descent, and Earl of Northumberland, and of Egremont by creation, had, with a son who died young, a daughter and sole heiress, the Lady Elizabeth Seymour. This lady became the wife of Sir Hugh Smithson, a Yorkshire baronet, who in consequence of this alliance, assumed the name of Percy and obtained the Dukedom of Northumberland: and she transmitted to her grandson by this marriage, Hugh Percy, the present Duke of Northumberland, the sole lineal representation of the last four Earls of the house of Percy, together with all which should accompany the living blood of his princely ancestors.

\* Shortly previous to this creation James Percy the trunk-maker emerged from obscurity and unsuccessfully prosecuted his claim. See p. 26.

† The Lady Elizabeth Percy, though very young in 1682 when this marriage took place, had already been previously married to Henry Cavendish, Earl of Ogle, the eldest son of the duke of Newcastle, who died without issue; and had been contracted to Thomas Thynne, Esq., of Longleate, whose bright prospects procured his assassination through a rival in 1682. This tragic incident is represented in bas relief on his monument in Westminster Abbey.

‡ Of this family the only personages who had surviving issue at all were Duke Algernon, the son and successor, and a daughter, the Lady Catherine Seymour, married to Sir William Wyndham, the tory leader of the opposition to the Walpole administration in the time of George I. :—

That “ Wyndham, just to freedom and the throne,  
The master of our passions and his own.”—*Pope*.

On the death of Duke Algernon without any surviving son, his dukedom of Somerset devolved on a distant cousin on his father's side; the Earldom of Egremont, together with the honour of Petworth and some lands in Yorkshire passed by a peculiar patent and settlement to his nephew Sir Charles Wyndham, the son of the above mentioned marriage; and the Earldom of Northumberland devolved according to its limitation, with the estates in Northumberland and Middlesex, on his son in law Sir Hugh Smithson.

§ During his father's life he was styled Earl of Hartford, the second title of his family :—

“ Now Percy's name no more does fill the north;  
Hartford succeeds in honor, fame, and worth  
Seymour and Percy both in him unite—  
He a good patriot, and a hardy knight.”—*Cheviot*.



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